

The Events Committee met online at 1100 UTC on 2 July 2025

Members Present:

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) Chair	Aiko Saito (JPN) Vice-Chair	Walter Boddener (BRA)
Shevaun Bruland (AUS)	Tayfun Erey (TUR)	Nuno Gomes (ANG)
Ferran Muniesa (ESP)	Piotr Oleksiak (POL)	Ed Russo (FRA)
Markus Schwendtner (GER) Olympic Classes SC Chair	Tian Wang (CHN)	Geoff Wooley (NZL)

In attendance:

Daniel Belcher (AUS) Vice President	Cory Sertl (USA) Vice President	Lisa Darmanin (AUS) Athletes' Committee Vice Chair
Michael Downing (Interim Director of Events)	Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)	

Apologies:

Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)	Paula Douat (COL)	Molly O'Bryan Vandemoer (USA)
Saskia Clark (GBR)		

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a. The Chair welcomed committee members and observers to their third formal meeting of their term.
- b. A quorum of 13 members was established.
- c. The chair noted 4 apologies received from members prior to the meeting.
- d. The Committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register.
- e. The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting on 1 May 2025 at 0900 UTC (available at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/commissions-committees-edi/committee-minutes-archive/>).
- f. There were no Matters Arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

2. Update from the Board

- a. The members received an update from the two Vice Presidents responsible for liaison with the Events Committee.
 Since the last Committee meeting, the Board had met twice and covered a wide-ranging set of topics which included five new strategic priorities, relevant to this Committee:
 - Growing new revenue streams and reducing WS's dependency on IOC dividend.
 - Securing para-sailing's re-inclusion into the Paralympic Games at Brisbane 2032.
 - To increase the IOC's rating for sailing, within sports presentation at LA 2028.
 - An upgrade to digital infrastructure especially for rankings and Sailor IDs.
 - Strengthening internal collaboration within and across World Sailing.

Other topics covered included the relevance of the IOC feedback and advice to World Sailing that will direct many of the upcoming meetings, particularly the Format Working Group. The recent announcement of the two LA venues was also hailed as good news with sailing to share a stage with other sports such as open water swimming, coastal rowing, beach volleyball, sport climbing amongst others in nearby venues which presents sailing with an excellent opportunity.

It was noted that Jim Morris had recently resigned his position as Director of Events and gratitude was expressed for his contribution to World Sailing. In closing, the Vice Presidents expressed thanks to the Chairs, members of the committee and working group leaders for their continued work over the last quarter.

- b. The committee noted the minutes of the Board meetings since their last Events Committee meeting.

3. Update from the Events Committee Chair/Co-Chair

- a. The Chair opened with an update that he is in regular and productive contact with his counterpart from the Equipment Committee which puts them in good standing for upcoming collaborative decisions to be made. It was also noted that regular contact with World Sailing staff on several issues, most recently to introduce the Monday.com platform which will be used to manage Proposals for the Committee to consider.

The Chair commended regular and productive working group calls in combination with stakeholder 'sync-ups' had led to productive sessions and conversations on various issues around format, IOC feedback, sports presentation and broadcast, many of which would follow in the meeting.

The Co-chair commented that she is in regular communication with athletes, coaches and race organisers and highlighting the work of the Committee and the challenges ahead. Her impression was that the majority now understood the issues and would aim to solve the problems together as a community. In closing, she thanked the working group members for their work, often with meetings held very at late or early hours of the day.

4. World Sailing Championships

- a. The Interim Director of Events gave an updated on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Fortaleza, Brazil noting that there were no major updates since the Committee last met although all is progressing well and the contract is being finalised. The OC are hoping to confirm competition dates by the end of July 2025.
- b. As with Fortaleza, progress for the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Gdynia, Poland is ongoing and the contract is being finalised with the competition dates to be published soon. The Committee were reminded that the Qualification System for both Championships was approved at the Singapore meeting in 2024.
- c. The Interim Director of Events gave an update on the work identifying and selecting Invited Events for the World Sailing Championships. It was reported that the review panel had met several times and had drawn together a shortlist of event concepts that are either familiar or that are new and untested which they would like to be explored further.

The bids received will remain confidential as promised to the bidders, with recommendations to be sent to the Board when they are finalised.

5. Olympic Sailing Competition – Los Angeles 2028

- a. The Interim Director of Events reported on developments from the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games which included the recent announcement of two venues in LA, which had taken a considerable work amongst stakeholders to reach a decision. Now with the two venues confirmed, World Sailing will be reviewing the field of play and the competition schedule with the aim to finalise by the end of the year so that teams will know where exactly the field of play is for them. Opportunities for training is also high on the agenda and the OC will be working with the local community on both venues, more details to follow as soon as possible. It was reported that a number of teams have already visited the venues and it was much appreciated that learnings were shared in confidence with the World Sailing Executive Office.

- b. The Committee received a report with 3 recommendations for the Qualification System for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition:

Recommendation 1: General principles of Qualification System

Recommendation 2: Boat Quota used in the Qualification System

Recommendation 3: Qualifier selection through evaluation panel comprising members of Quota and Qualification Working Group and World Sailing Executive Office.

The leader of the Quota and Qualification Working Group presented the report that had been circulated to members. In opening, clarification was offered to a minor typo which was updated before the Committee voted. The WG leader thanked Working Group members for producing a clear, well planned document.

The report proposed recommendations for the Quota and Qualification system for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition and each recommendation was approved by the Committee.

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstain: 1 due to conflict of interest.

The full text of the recommendations to Council are appended to these minutes in the Events Committee Report to Council.

- c. The leader of the Format Working Group presented 9 recommendations for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition in a report that had been circulated to members of the Committee. The recommendations were summarised within three areas:
- Visual presentation and terminology
 - Communication of race management decisions and intentions
 - Complexity

The WG leader thanked members of the Format Working Group for their work over the last 6 months or more, to prepare well thought out recommendations for the Committee.

It was noted that Recommendations 1, 4 and 7 had already been approved by the previous Events Committee in their 2024 meeting held in Singapore, however the recommendations had not yet been passed to Council so the decision was made to keep them as one group of recommendations. It was noted that whilst all 9 recommendations were final, it is expected that further recommendations follow in subsequent meetings before the Annual Conference meeting in November 2025.

Recommendation 1: Visual clues for male and female athletes

Recommendation 2: Prominent national identifiers

Recommendation 3: Development of standardised and audience-friendly terminology

Recommendation 4: Race officials preparation for Olympic Sailing Competition

Recommendation 5: Integration of race officials into audio-visual presentation during broadcast

Recommendation 6: Opening series scheduled over no more than three days

Recommendation 7: Competing in a wide range of conditions

Recommendation 8: Starting and finishing on time

Recommendation 9: Not running Windsurfing Marathon Race

The report proposed 9 recommendations for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition and each recommendation was approved by the Committee.

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

The full text of the recommendations to Council are appended to these minutes in the Events Committee Report to Council.

The WG leader thanked members for their support and reiterated more recommendations would follow in due course, in line with the conditions set to World Sailing by the IOC.

6. Olympic Sailing Competition – Brisbane 2032

- a. The Committee received a progress report on the Events Review process as required by Regulation 11, which requires a minimum of four events to be put 'under review' ahead of the 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition. The leader of the working group gave a verbal update highlighting the creation of a scorecard with 22 criteria, developed around the World Sailing Strategy, Olympic Vision and IOC feedback which will be used to assess and evaluate the 10 current Olympic events. The working group are currently waiting for input from stakeholders in the form of a survey and will make their report to the Committee for the next meeting.
- b. The Committee received an update on the proposal for the use of supplied equipment at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition. With the working group leader being absent, the chair of the Events Committee gave a brief progress report noting

significance to agenda item 7(d) regarding the reduction of material and non-material costs of campaigning. Work in this area is expected to take two years to develop a final proposal with preliminary findings to be presented early 2026.

7. Various Working Areas

- a. The Committee received a verbal progress report on the development of a calendar strategy from the working group leader noting that clear goals and objectives had been established with the aim of presenting a recommendation document and supporting papers for the next Committee meeting. A draft calendar set for next two quads noting some minor competition adjustments that had been observed. Due to the later than planned confirmation of the 2027 World Sailing Championships, it was noted the dates for the individual 2026 Olympic Class World championships were still being finalised.
- b. The working group leader continued with a verbal report on the development of the Sailing World Cup. He noted the efforts made by Jim Morris to progress this topic. The World Sailing Executive Office had drafted a paper to evaluate its' position and vision of the World Cup which would then be taken into consideration by the working group to consolidate a paper and recommendation which would be due before the next Committee meeting.
- c. The working group leader continued with an update on the development of the Olympic Class rankings. It was made very clear that any changes proposed would require proper funding to be implemented. There are several opportunities that would be investigated, and the working group have clear ideas on what rankings could be used towards and a strategy would be developed for the next Committee meeting.

The Competitions Manager gave further background and informed the Committee that a new database had been commissioned along with two new staff to work on the website and IT more generally.
- d. The agenda item on the reduction of material and non-material costs of competing was reported in conjunction with item 6(b).

8. Proposal Assigned to the Events Committee

- a. The Events Committee did not receive any Proposals.
- b. There were no opinions on Proposals to be offered to any reporting body.

9. AOB

- a. The committee discussed the next Council meeting planned in July and agreed all papers would be updated and submitted according to timeline.

The Chair thanked members and observers, noted that the second session will not be required and closed the meeting at 13:50 UTC